

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00751 291221Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCCT-01 DODE-00

INRE-00 /052 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2205

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTNABUL IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL IZMIR IMMEDIATE

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FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: BOMBING OF U.S. GOVERNMENT VEHICLE - ANKARA

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 2155 HOURS, JANUARY 28, 1976, AN IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (IED) DETONATED UNDER AN UNOCCUPIED U.S. GOVERNMENT-OWNED CARRY-ALL TRUCK PARKED IN FRONT OF THE ANKARA U.S. MILITARY TRANSIENT BUILDING (MERHABA PALAS). THE BLAST DESTROYED THE FRONT END OF THE TRUCK, SHATTERED THE GROUND FLOOR AND BASEMENT WINDOWS OF THE TRANSIENT FACILITY AND DAMAGED WINDOWS OF TURKISH-OWNED BUILDING IN A ONE BLOCK AREA NEAR THE TRANSIENT BUILDING. A PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLE PARKED APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET FROM THE POINT OF DETONATION, SUFFERED HEAVY GLASS DAMAGE.

2. THE ONLY REPORTED INJURY FROM THE BLAST WAS THE TURKISH TRANSIENT BUILDING DESK CLERK, WHO WAS SLIGHTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00751 291221Z

CUT BY FLYING GLASS. ALL OF THE FACILITY'S GUESTS WERE

EVACUATED TO HOTELS BECAUSE OF A GAS LEAK WITHIN THE BUILDING AFTER THE DETONATION.

3. INITIAL INVESTIGATION INDICATES THE IED CONTAINED AN ESTIMATED THREE TO FOUR POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL. RESIDUE AND THE LACK OF A FIRE AFTER THE DETONATION INDICATES IT MAY HAVE BEEN BLACK POWDER. A PIECE OF STANDARD FUSE WAS FOUND IN THE SEVEN-INCH DEEP CRATER UNDER THE TRUCK'S MOTOR AREA. THE IED WAS MOST LIKELY ENCASED IN PAPER OR CARDBOARD. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF IED SHRAPNEL.

4. THE DAMAGED TRUCK WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ANKARA ROD AND GUN CLUB, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE REAR OF THE TRANSIENT BUILDING. IT BORE HQ TUSLOG LICENSE PLATES.

5. THERE WAS NO WARNING PRIOR TO THE DETONATION. THE DAMAGED TRUCK WAS PARKED ON THE SIDEWALK PARKING AREA IN FRONT OF THE TRANSIENT BUILDING. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PICK-UP POINTS ARE LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO AND ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE POINT OF DETONATION. PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN THE AREA IS GENERALLY HEAVY DURING LATE EVENING HOURS. A U.S. MILITARY FOOD AND DRUGSTORE, FREQUENTED BY U.S. MILITARY AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL, IS LOCATED IN THE FRONT PORTION OF THE TRANSIENT BUILDING. THIS FACILITY WAS CLOSED AS WEDNESDAY IS ITS DAY OF NON-OPERATION.

6. THE TYPE OF IED INVOLVED AND THE HIT AND RUN TACTIC USED IS TYPICAL OF THE IED INCIDENTS IN ANKARA AND ISTANBUL DURING THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST IED INCIDENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN A PUBLIC AREA. THE PREVIOUS DEVICES HAVE BEEN PLACED AWAY FROM PUBLIC STREETS AND TIMED TO DETONATE GENERALLY AROUND MIDNIGHT, APPARENTLY TO AVOID INJURY TO PERSONNEL.

7. NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBJECT BOMBING INCIDENT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE INDICATING WHO MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE. PRESS COVERAGE HAS PROVIDED VARIOUS CONFLICTING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 00751 291221Z

MISLEADING REPORTS. TURKISH POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INCIDENT. ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT INDICATED THAT FOUR TURKISH MALES OF UNIVERSITY AGE WERE OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF THE TRUCK APPROXIMATELY TWO MINUTES PRIOR TO DETONATION. ANOTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORT NOTED THAT THE IED WAS THROWN UNDER THE TRUCK FROM A PASSING VEHICLE. ALTHOUGH THE DEVICE MAY HAVE BEEN CRUDELY MADE AND

THE OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY AMATEURS.THE PLACEMENT
OF THE DEVICE HAD THE MAXIMUM DAMAGE EFFECT ON THE TRUCK.

8. TURKISH AND U.S. INVESTIGATIONS OF SUBJECT INCIDENT
CONTINUE. WILL ADVISE OF ANY NEW SIGNIFICANT
DEVELOPMENTS. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF
A PLANNED BOMBING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE U.S. PRESENCE
IN TURKEY. HOWEVER, MAXIMUM EFFORTS ARE BEING
MADE TO DETER FUTURE INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRUCKS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, TERRORISTS, EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0193
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760111/aaaaajef.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMBING OF U.S. GOVERNMENT VEHICLE - ANKARA
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006